

side of the aisle do not say this increased spending is risky. They instead claim that our tax relief efforts to let the people keep a little more of their own money is risky.

People today work hard, and then are penalized for their work. With punitive taxes, Washington makes the American dream of working hard for a better life more difficult, and for some, impossible. How can anyone call the elimination of the marriage tax penalty for 21 million American families risky?

It is clear that the American people are still overtaxed despite the progress we have made to reduce taxes. Congress must provide meaningful tax relief to help alleviate the tax burden on working Americans.

But the only way we can effectively push back Tax Freedom Day is to terminate the tax code and replace it with one that promotes tax freedom and economic opportunity. We must repeal the 16th amendment and abolish the IRS. We must create a new tax system that's fairer, simpler, and friendlier to taxpayers.

Tax Freedom Day—it should be more than just another reminder of the high cost of Government. We owe it to the American taxpayers to work together to fix the system. Only when we begin to shorten the number of days that Americans work for Government, and allow them to own the fruits of their labor, can we truly celebrate Tax Freedom Day.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR PRESIDENT AND MRS. REAGAN

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, as you may know, on April 25, 2000, many of my colleagues and I introduced S. 2459, legislation that would award President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan with the Congressional Gold Medal.

The bill has been received warmly in my home State as well. The Press-Sentinel of Jesup, GA, recently ran an editorial supporting my bill. I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Jesup, GA, Press-Sentinel, Apr. 26, 2000]

A FITTING TRIBUTE TO REAGAN

If Sen. Paul Coverdell has his way, former President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, will become the 118th recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal.

Tuesday, the Georgia senator introduced legislation that would award the president and his wife the medal.

Said the senator, "I am proud to sponsor this effort. President and Mrs. Reagan are a constant source of inspiration for me, as they are for many Americans. President Reagan led us to the economic prosperity that we still enjoy today and was instrumental in ending the Cold War. Mrs. Reagan lent her grace and commitment to fighting the war on drugs. Now as they battle the President's Alzheimer's Disease together, it is fitting for this nation to thank them for

their leadership and for the role they played in shaping American history."

During his eight years in the White House, Reagan's role in ending the Cold War will go down in history as perhaps his greatest accomplishment.

Who can forget the challenge he hurled to his counterpart in Moscow, Mikhail Gorbachev, when he stood at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate and said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

In 1989, near the end of his term, the Berlin Wall came down and a year later Germany was again reunited.

When told of plans to award the Reagans the medal, Gorbachev said, "The award of the Gold Medal of U.S. Congress to Ronald Reagan is a fitting tribute to the 40th president of the United States, who will go down in history as a man profoundly dedicated to his people and committed to the values of democracy and freedom.

"Together with Ronald Reagan, we took the first, the most important steps to end the cold war and start real nuclear disarmament. . . . I am confident that succeeding generations will duly appreciate the accomplishments of President Reagan."

We applaud the overdue recognition of President Reagan's accomplishments and hope for unanimous support for Sen. Coverdell's legislation.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, from rural Georgia to Capitol Hill, Americans recognize the immeasurable contribution that President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan have made to our Nation. Their support is most welcome.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, May 2, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,669,550,992,339.00 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty-nine billion, five hundred fifty million, nine hundred ninety-two thousand, three hundred thirty-nine dollars and zero cents).

Five years ago, May 2, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,859,125,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred fifty-nine billion, one hundred twenty-five million).

Ten years ago, May 2, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,082,811,000,000 (Three trillion, eight-two billion, eight hundred eleven million).

Fifteen years ago, May 2, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,745,505,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred forty-five billion, five hundred five million).

Twenty-five years ago, May 2, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$516,450,000,000 (Five hundred sixteen billion, four hundred fifty million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,153,100,992,339.00 (Five trillion, one hundred fifty-three billion, one hundred million, nine hundred ninety-two thousand, three hundred thirty-nine dollars and zero cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WORLD ASTHMA DAY 2000

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to the fact that

today May 3, 2000, is World Asthma Day. As some of you may know, I am a strong supporter of federal, state, and local efforts to create and enhance awareness of asthma and to improve asthma care throughout this country and indeed throughout the world. I would also like to extend sincere thanks to the many thousands of Americans and others who work day after day to try to improve the way asthma is diagnosed and treated.

In the last 15 years, the prevalence of asthma has doubled throughout the world. More than 10 percent of children have asthma symptoms, and in some countries, as many as 30 percent are affected. In this country, asthma ranks among the most common chronic conditions, affecting more than 15 million Americans, including 5 million children, and causing more than 1.5 million emergency department visits, approximately 500,000 hospitalizations, and more than 5,500 deaths. The estimated direct and indirect monetary costs for this disease totaled \$11.3 billion in 1998, in the United States alone.

World Asthma Day 2000 is being marked by more than 80 countries throughout the world. It is a partnership between health care groups and asthma educators organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma, GINA, which is a collaboration between the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, NHLBI, of the National Institutes of Health and the World Health Organization. On this day, thousands of people throughout the world will work together to create greater awareness of the need for every person with asthma to obtain a timely diagnosis, receive appropriate treatment, learn to manage their asthma in partnership with a health professional, and reduce exposure to environmental factors that make their asthma worse.

Among those participating in World Asthma Day, via a special World Asthma Day Internet site (www.Webvention.org), will be Dr. David Satcher, Surgeon General of the United States, and Mr. Nelson Mandela, former President of the Republic of South Africa and currently Chairman of the South African National Asthma Campaign. Ministers of Health from Japan, Turkey, Malaysia and other countries will also be available on the Internet to answer questions about how the implementation of international asthma treatment guidelines can benefit patients and reduce health care costs.

In the U.S., local World Asthma Day activities are being coordinated by the NHLBI's National Asthma Education and Prevention Program and are listed on its Web site (www.nhlbi.nih.gov). These activities range from local press conferences to school poster contests, and health fairs to science museum education programs.

The NAEPP, along with the National Library of Medicine, Howard University, the Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the American Lung